

Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7051

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, BS

SUBJECT:BOTSWANA'S PLANS FOR TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
IN 1976

DEPARTMENT PASS USIA, OPIC, DOC, AND ARBA

1. MR. G. W. MATENGE, COORDINATOR FOR THE BOTSWANA TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR SEPTEMBER 17. MR. MATENGE INTRODUCED HIS REMARKS BY SAYING THIS WAS AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION FOR THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF INFORMING THE AMBASSADOR OF HIS PLANS AND ENCOURAGING U.S. PARTICIPATION AS APPROPRIATE IN THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WHICH WILL BE HELD DURING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 3, 1976.

2. MATENGE NOTED THAT INVITATIONS WOULD PROBABLY BE EXTENDED TO FIVE HEADS OF STATE FROM AFRICA (ZAMIBA, ZAIRE, MOZAMBIQUE, TANZANIA AND THE OAU PRESIDENT) AND MINISTERIAL LEVEL DELEGATIONS FROM ABOUT 17 FRIENDLY COUNTRIES (THE U.S. DENMARK, NORWAY, SWEDEN, BRITIAN, CANADA, USSR, THE PRC, MALAWI, LESOTHO, NIGERIA, KENYA, GAMB A, CAMEROON, AUSTRALIA, SWAZILAND, AND ANGOLA). HE SAID THAT THREE U.S. MINISTERIAL LEVEL DELEGATES MIGHT BE INVITED, WITH SPOUSES. HE ASKED THAT THE LISTS OF NAMES OF
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COUNTRIES BE TREATED AS TENTATIVE AND PRIVILEGED INFORMA-

TION. MATENGE RECOGNIZED THAT SUCH AN INFLUX OF DIGNITARIES WOULD CREATE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND SECURITY PROBLEMS. HE SAID HE IS WORKING TO IMPROVE ROADS IN GABORONE AND TO EXTEND THE TOWN HALL SO THAT IT CAN HOLD A MAJOR INDEPENDENCE BALL AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NATIONAL STADIUM AND HE HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT SECURITY MEASURES WITH THE SECURITY POLICE AND THAT IS UNDER STUDY.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE AMBASSADOR, MATENGE NOTED THAT DISTINGUISHED GUESTS WOULD PROBABLY ONLY NEED BE IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE THREE DAYS CENTERING ON INDEPENDENCE DAY, I.E. SEPTEMBER 29, SEPTEMBER 30 AND OCTOBER 1. THE ENTIRE WEEK WILL NOT BE A FULL HOLIDAY BUT WILL BE DECLARED TO BE CELEBRATION WEEK. STORES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES WOULD BE OPEN BUT WITH SKELETON STAFFS SO THAT AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE COULD PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES.

4. MATENGE SAID HE WAS ASKED AND RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY FOR THE TRADE FAIR TO BE HELD THE SAME WEEK. HE NOTED HERE THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE CURRENT STRUCTURES ON THE FAIRGROUNDS MIGHT BE REPLACED WITH MORE SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS. HE SAID ALSO THAT THE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION WAS CONSIDERING HAVING ITS ANNUAL MUSIC COMPETITION THAT WEEK AND THAT ATHLETIC EVENTS WOULD ALSO BE INCLUDED. AT THIS POINT, MATENGE SUGGESTED THAT U.S. SINGERS WOULD BE MOST WELCOME, BUT HE NOTED THAT THE GOB WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FINANCE SUCH AMERICAN PARTICIPATION.

5. THE AMBASSADOR RECALLED THAT AMERICAN ENTERTAINER MARK CHANNING HAD RECENTLY APPEARED AT THE HOLIDAY INN AND SUGGESTED THAT MATENGE CONTACT THE MANAGER TO DISCUSS THE PROJECT AND ENCOURAGE THE HOLIDAY INN TO BOOK A TOP NOTCH ENTERTAINER THAT WEEK. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT MATENGE SOLICIT EVEN BROADER SUPPORT FROM THE HOLIDAY INN. IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT MAJOR COMPANIES BE APPROACHED TO PARTICIPATE. MATENGE NOTED THAT HE HAD ALREADY SENT LETTERS TO MAJOR CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR PARTICIPATION.

6. THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THE IMPORTANT OF FOREIGN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JOURNALISTS BEING IN ATTENDANCE, TO PUBLICIZE THE EVENT, AND DESIRABILITY OF A DOCUMENTARY FILM. MATENGE SAID HE HAD ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BELGIAN FIRM BUT HE HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO DEALING WITH U.S. FILM CORPORATIONS. MATENGE SAID THAT IF WE FOUND INTERESTED FILM COMPANIES, HE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHAT THEIR CONDITIONS WOULD BE.

7. MATENGE RECALLED A CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL

REGARDING U.S. BICENTENNIAL MATERIALS WHICH MIGHT BE OF ASSISTANCE TO HIM IN HIS PLANNING. THE DCM UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE HIM WITH ALL SUCH MATERIALS AVAILABLE HERE.

8. THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL ITSELF WAS THEN DISCUSSED. THE FACT THAT IT IS TAKING PLACE OVER MORE THAN A YEAR AND IN EVERY PART OF THE UNITED STATES WAS MENTIONED. THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT WE ATTEMPT TO FIND OUT WHAT EVENTS ARE TAKING PLACE IN GABORONE'S SISTER CITY OF BURBANK. THE AMBASSADOR RECALLED THAT BURBANK HAD GIVEN SOME INDICATION OF BEING WILLING TO ASSIST WITH TRAFFIC PROBLEMS. MAYBE BURBANK COULD HELP WITH THE CONGESTION PROBLEM MATENGE HAD DESCRIBED. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES IN MID-OCTOBER AND WOULD BE PLEASED TO SUPPORT THE IDEA OF AMERICAN PARTICIPATION WHILE THERE. HE HOPED, THEREFORE THAT MATENGE COULD GIVE HIM AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE BEFORE HE DEPARTS.

9. THE AMBASSADOR THEN ASKED IF THE BOTSWANA EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED REGARDING THE CELEBRATION AND POSSIBLE U.S. PARTICIPATION. MATENGE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD INFORMED THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE, HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY COMMUNICATIONS BY THEM TO BOTSWANA EMBASSY'S ABROAD.

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